

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A fastener, comprising:
 - a metal shank having an approximately constant diameter;
 - a helical thread formed on the shank, wherein the ratio of the thread to diameter to the shank diameter is at least 1.5:1; and
 - a helical, roughened surface formed on ~~at least part of the entire~~ shank.
2. (previously presented) The fastener of claim 1, wherein the helical thread is spaced at intervals between 0.5-1.0 cm.
3. (currently amended) A fastener, comprising:
 - a head;
 - a shank having a minor diameter and a tip;
 - a first helical threading formed on the shank and having a first diameter; and
 - a second helical threading formed on the shank proximal the head and distal the tip, the second threading having a second diameter that is substantially less than the first diameter; and
 - a helical, roughened surface formed on ~~at least part of the entire~~ shank.
4. (previously presented) The fastener of claim 3, the shank having an axis and length extending from the head to a terminal end thereof, wherein the second helical threading extends over less than half of the shank length.
5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A ~~The fastener of claim 5, further comprising~~
- a head;
- a shank having a minor diameter and a tip;
- a first helical threading formed on the shank and having a first diameter, wherein the ratio of the first diameter to the minor diameter is at least 1.5:1 and the threads of the first threading are spaced at intervals between 0.5 to 1.0 cm;
- a second helical threading formed on the shank proximal the head and distal the tip, the second threading having a second diameter that is substantially less than the first diameter; and
- a ~~the~~ helical, roughened surface extending over the entire shank.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for supporting a structure from frangible material using a fastener, comprising the steps of:

providing a self-tapping metal fastener including a head and shank, the shank having a minor diameter and a major diameter, the major diameter defined by a helical threading formed on the shank, wherein the ratio of the major diameter to the minor diameter is at least 1.5:1, and a helical, roughened surface formed on ~~at least part of the~~ entire shank;

driving the fastener into the frangible material such that the fastener and the structure are supported entirely by the frangible material.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the frangible material is selected from the group consisting of sheet rock, concrete, brick or block material.

12. (currently amended) A fastener suitable for holding in frangible material comprising:

a metal shank including a tip;

a first helical thread formed on the shank and defining thread convolutions, and

a helical, roughened surface disposed between the thread convolutions on ~~at least part of~~ the entire shank.

13. (currently amended) The fastener of claim 12, further comprising a head at one end of the shank and the tip being a pointed tip at a second end of the shank distal the head.

14. (previously presented) The fastener of claim 13, wherein the head includes grooves adapted to engage a Phillips-head screwdriver.

15. (previously presented) The fastener of claim 12, further comprising a second helical thread formed on at least part of the shank and having a height less than the first helical thread.